



Florida House of Representatives

HOUSE MAJORITY OFFICE

402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, Florida
32399-1300

Carlos Lopez-Cantera
Majority Leader

322 The Capitol
(850) 488 -1993

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CONTACT: Rebekah Hammond
(850) 488-1993

House Majority Leader Carlos Lopez-Cantera comments on Special Session veto overrides

TALLAHASSEE, FL – Florida House Majority Leader Carlos Lopez-Cantera (R-Miami) issued the following statement regarding today's Special Session veto overrides:

"Today we accomplished our duty to override a number of the Governor's poor decisions and were able to provide much needed relief to thousands of burdened Floridians.

We addressed issues that were already vetted and passed in the previous Legislative Session. Many issues received unanimous bi-partisan support for a second time. These issues were good policy when they originally passed the Legislature, and they are good policy today. I am thankful that we can now move on to other pressing state business.

This Special Session has shown the strong leadership of Republican Party, and I look forward to leading our caucus in the upcoming session. Of particular note was the overriding of the Health Care Appropriations - Shands veto. A line item veto override has not occurred since December 7, 1984. The Governor's budget has included this appropriation for the past 4 years."

The Florida House of Representatives passed veto overrides of eight bills that were vetoed by the Governor following the 2010 Legislative Session.

Health Care Appropriations – Shands: The unanimous override of this appropriation will designate \$9.7 million in funding for Shands Teaching Hospital. If the veto of this override had stood, Shands Hospital would have been forced to make difficult budget reductions, including restricting admissions to underfunded Medicaid and charity patients, terminating the inpatient psychiatric unit, burn unit and the Shands at UF Level 1 Trauma Center, reducing care provided to pediatric heart patients, and eliminating many medical residencies.

House Bill 545: The override of the veto of HB 545 will prevent a mitigation disclosure statute from taking effect that could have hurt home sales along Florida's coastline.

House Bill 569: The override of the veto of HB 569 will provide for the combined collection of waste and yard trash, allowing more efficient and less costly collection and possibly fewer waste-hauling trucks on the road. This override may result in cost savings for citizens and decreased vehicle traffic, which could reduce energy consumption and greenhouse emissions.

House Bill 981: The override of the veto of HB 981 will protect farmers from losing agriculture classification of land and being forced to pay higher property taxes. If this veto had stood, it would have resulted in increased financial hardships for farmers, increased pressures to sell agricultural lands, and the potential conversion of such lands to nonagricultural purposes.

House Bill 1385: The override of the veto of HB 1385 will allow the Department of Environmental Protection to use available appropriations for both active and passive remediation techniques and to assess low-scored sites to minimize or eliminate contamination threats to public health and the environment in an improved, efficient, and effective manner. In addition, state-funded contaminated sites in the backlog will become active sooner, thereby reducing the backlog of over 8,800 sites that qualify for state funding.

House Bill 1516: The override of the veto of HB 1516 will allow for the creation of a database that will allow DEP to retire two current databases in the near future and also may result in the retirement of a third. Most importantly, the override allows progress toward a comprehensive accounting of all state-owned lands.

House Bill 1565: The override of the veto of HB 1565 will provide for review of rules when agencies adopt administrative rules with significant negative economic impacts at a time when the state's economy is struggling to recover from the most serious economic downturn.

Senate Bill 1842: The override of the veto of HB 1842 will ensure the opportunity for public input for Department of Transportation projects during early stages of the government decision-making process.

For more information on the specific veto overrides, please visit www.MyFloridaHouse.gov.

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